



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

Division of Economic Support

Bureau of Work Support Programs

**TO: Economic Support Supervisors
Economic Support Lead Workers
Training Staff
Child Care Coordinators
W-2 Agencies**

FROM: Stephen M. Dow
Policy Analysis & Program Implementation Unit
Work Programs Section

BWSP OPERATIONS MEMO

No.: 00-36

File: 2781

Date: 05/02/2000

Non W-2 ☒ **W-2** ☐ **CC** ☐

PRIORITY: High

**SUBJECT: SPECIAL HOUSING AMOUNT FOR COMMUNITY WAIVER
PROGRAMS**

CROSS REFERENCE: MA Handbook

EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately

PURPOSE

This memo provides instructions for determining Medicaid (Medical Assistance, MA) eligibility and entering CARES data for individuals participating in a Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver (HCB Waiver). It is primarily intended for those Economic Support (ES) agencies that have clients requesting to participate in any Waiver program. CARES procedures described later in this memo will be in effect until CARES changes can be made to automate this additional deduction under "Group B" waiver eligibility.

BACKGROUND

DHFS, Division of Supportive Living-(DSL), Bureau of Aging & Long Term Care Resources (BALTCR) is responding to considerable requests to implement this change. The requests involve including "room" costs as rent in the calculation of "special housing costs". Including this amount generally results in a higher Personal Maintenance Allowance for a Group B applicant residing in an alternate community living arrangement.

Prior to the Renewal of the Medicaid Home and Community Based (HCB) Waiver called the "COP Waiver", the special housing amount did not apply to residents in alternate community living arrangements (CBRFs, RCACs, or AFHs). The Renewal language acknowledged the need to apply the excessive room costs in these facilities as special housing costs. Not doing so was limiting the housing choices available to the long-term care population served.

MA ELIGIBILITY AND CARES PROCESSING

MA HCB Waiver applicants categorically qualifying for MA under a special income limit (Group B) are allowed to include "room" costs as "rent" under the "Special Housing Amount" allowed as an addition to the "personal maintenance allowance".

This "room/rent" will be determined by and given to you by the applicant's Waiver Care Manager.

CARES

Currently, CARES instructions do not include this amount under "rent". Answer "yes" on the AFSQ screen to the question regarding "shelter costs" and enter the "room" amount as rent on the AFSC CARES screen. In doing so, the personal maintenance allowance will increase according to the formula for the "Special Housing Amount" in Group B.

Please document that you have included the shelter expenses of individuals in these living arrangements on AFSC and the amount, on the CARES Comment Screen (CMCC).

CONTACT

DES CARES & Policy Call Center	Email:	carpolcc@dwd.state.wi.us
	Telephone:	(608) 261-6317 (Option #1)
	Fax:	(608) 261-6968

Note: Email contacts are preferred. Thank you.